



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steve Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Public comment sought on draft report regarding water quality impairments related to pH and metals on six stream segments in Hopkins County** *Comment period ends May 18*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. – (April 20, 2015)** The Kentucky Division of Water is seeking public comment until May 18, 2015 on a draft report addressing water quality impairments related to pH and metals. The report, "Proposed Draft Total Maximum Daily Load for pH, Cadmium, Iron, Nickel and Zinc, 16 Pollutant-Waterbody Combinations on 6 Stream Segments, Hopkins County, Kentucky," has been prepared as required by the federal Clean Water Act (CWA).

The report, prepared by the Kentucky Division of Water (DOW), addresses pH and metals impairments in the 6 stream segments that make them impaired for the aquatic life designated use, as well as the primary contact recreation (swimming) and secondary contact recreation (boating and wading) designated uses. The report includes data and procedures used to calculate the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the stream segments. Revisions to the report may be made following the public comment period and before it is sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval. The TMDL report may be viewed at <http://water.ky.gov/Pages/PublicNotices.aspx>.

The CWA requires each state to periodically identify specific waters where designated uses are not being met and water quality impairments exist. The state is also required to prioritize the list of impaired waters, calculate a TMDL of pollutants for those waters and devise plans to improve the water quality. "Total Maximum Daily Load" is a term used to describe the amount of pollution a stream can receive and still meet water quality standards. Water quality standards are regulations based on federal or state law that set numeric or narrative limits on pollutants. TMDLs are required for water bodies that are determined to be impaired by pollutants.

Comments should be submitted in writing to Eric Liebenauer, Division of Water, 200 Fair Oaks Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601, or by email to [eric.liebenauer@ky.gov](mailto:eric.liebenauer@ky.gov). Printed copies of the report may be obtained from Mr. Liebenauer, who can be reached by telephone at 502-564-3410.

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